



Group Meeting Notes

TEI Group: Special Education
Date/Time/Location: 02/09/2017, online meeting
Members in Attendance: Rick Woodford, Dawn Scarince, Jenny Krause, Tiffany Dobler, Wendy Gautner
Support in Attendance: David Yanoski

Information Reviewed: No specific information was reviewed

Discussion: The primary discussion for this meeting centered on the review and revision of a survey developed by Tiffany and Rick. The survey will be sent to Special Education Directors, principals and superintendents around the state. It is designed to gather feedback on a variety of program options for Special Education teacher prep at the University of Wyoming, including undergraduate options.

The team reviewed the survey, and offered suggestions for changes in wording. In addition, the team began discussions about what each of the options could like, including dual major programs, 4 year and 5 year undergraduate programs, Special Education endorsement programs, Special Education minors, a combo Education undergraduate and Special Education Master's program, and Master's degree programs with a specialization. The survey also asks respondents to indicate the degree to which the various programs had the potential to reduce Special Education teacher shortage issues currently being experienced in the state and opinions on the length and format of internship experiences. Tiffany will follow up by completing the survey and preparing it for the university Qualtrix account. Jenny will work on the contact information for state superintendents and principals.

The role of the Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) in this process was also discussed. It was felt that the PTSB definitely needed to be consulted, but it was more appropriate to wait until the committee had specific recommendations.

The second topic of conversation was the internship grant opportunity that the team approved proceeding with at the last meeting. The school has received approval from university leadership to pursue the grant. The grant requires that specific district(s) be identified as part of the application. The team discussed various criteria for inviting districts to participate, in addition to the 0% free and reduced lunch criteria required by the grant. Other important criteria for the grant included proximity to a community college, participation from an elementary, middle school, and high school, and full time Special Education staff to serve as mentors. Although the team was very interested in

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identifying possible participants from around the state, the lack of qualified schools/districts based on the free/reduced lunch criteria made this difficult. The decision was made to invite participation from Sheridan 2, Fremont 25, and Laramie 1. Rick will follow up with an initial conversation with the superintendents of each of these districts. University grant writers will now begin work on the proposal.

Finally, the team began conversations about the current status of teacher prep programs at the University. The decision was made to invite representatives from the elementary and secondary education departments to attend the next meeting to provide a brief overview of current programs and requirements. Tiffany will follow up with the departments.

Votes/Actions: Vote on moving forward with survey as revised by team. All voted in the affirmative.
Consensus was reached on the three school districts invited to participate in the grant.

Deadlines / Tasks /

Responsibilities:

- All: Identify 5 teacher prep programs worth a closer look, including one regional competition.
- Tiffany: Complete survey, create Qualtrix survey
- Jenny: Locate contact information for all state superintendents and principals – send to Tiffany
- Rick: Make initial contact with superintendents from Sheridan 2, Fremont 25, and Laramie 1 about possible participation in internship grant

Next Meeting Details: Scheduled 2/23/2017 10-12 in the Clay conference room. Request an earlier start at 9 am.